



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

CARBOLABS INC

November 14, 2000

Current due date  
comfort/status letter  
9/20/01

Mr. Scott Batchellor  
Carbolabs, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3765 Amity Station  
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Dear Mr. Batchellor:

My purpose in writing is to assure you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) New England office's Superfund program has no plans to list the Carbolabs, Inc. property located at 443 Fairwood Road in Bethany, Connecticut, on the National Priorities List (NPL or "Superfund List").

Currently, there are approximately 1,200 New England sites being evaluated by the federal Superfund Site Assessment program for potential NPL eligibility. In order to address these 1,200 sites in a timely manner, EPA is considering alternatives that will make it possible for the states and EPA to agree on a significantly reduced number of sites which are appropriate for inclusion on the NPL. Our goals are to focus federal resources where they are most effective, encourage private party responses under state authorities, eliminate duplication of efforts due to overlapping state and federal requirements, and provide the public with more accurate information regarding site priorities and federal/state program actions.

Most of the 1,200 sites have had, or are now undergoing various actions by EPA, the state, or responsible parties to reduce risk to human health and/or the environment. In the case of the Carbolabs, Inc. property (EPA ID# CTD045175726), metals and petroleum contamination in groundwater onsite was brought to the attention of EPA in 1981. EPA Superfund program Preliminary Assessment, Site Inspection, and Site Inspection Prioritization reports were prepared for this site in 1981, 1991 and 1996 respectively. These and other state and private investigations of the site have confirmed releases of hazardous substances to groundwater, surface water sediments, and onsite soils. Response actions, including source abatement, are being implemented in accordance with state program requirements, and the state now considers conditions at the site to be protective of public health and the environment, although further steps may be needed to ensure a permanent remedy is achieved. In the interim, the CT DEP has requested (letter from Mike Harder dated March 31, 2000 enclosed) that EPA issue a "comfort letter" acknowledging the state's leading role in overseeing environmental compliance at this site.

EPA Region 1 has reviewed the information in our files and that provided by the state regarding the current status of the Carbolabs, Inc. property. Although the ongoing remedial actions being overseen by the state are not complete, sufficient information is available to support a decision not to pursue NPL listing of this site at this time. This decision is based upon our knowledge and

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assessment of the current site conditions and the recommendation of the CT DEP that this site is not an appropriate candidate for listing, and should instead remain a state-lead site while the remedial actions are completed. Upon confirmation that all remedial activities have been completed to the satisfaction of the CT DEP, EPA New England will determine whether this site should be assigned a No Further federal Remedial Action Planned designation and archived from the Superfund program inventory of known and suspected hazardous waste disposal sites (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System, or CERCLIS). Pending such notification from the state, the Corbolabs, Inc. site will remain on CERCLIS as a "state lead" site, but no further steps will be taken to list this site on the NPL.

Please be advised that EPA, in consultation with the CT DEP, reserves the right to reactivate NPL listing activities at this site if new information becomes available or site conditions substantially change. Such significantly changed circumstances could result in a recommendation for listing at a later time.

If you have any questions regarding the Superfund Site Assessment program status of this site, please contact Mr. Donald Smith of my staff at (617) 918-1433.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia L. Meaney".

Patricia L. Meaney, Director  
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Michael Harder, CT DEP